

Dear Chairman Powell and Commissioners,
As a citizen who wants to be informed about the political and electoral issues that affect my life, I am greatly disappointed by the lack of informative television programming.

Local public affairs programming is virtually non-existent--constituting less than one half of 1% of all local programming. More than half of news broadcasts prior to the 2002 elections did not include a single campaign story. Our democracy is at risk when many Americans don't know basic facts about the candidates or the issues, as was the case in the 2000 elections.

Since broadcasters have clearly failed in their obligation to serve the public interest, the FCC should define meaningful public interest requirements that include local civic and electoral affairs programming. At a minimum, broadcasters should air three hours per week of local civic and electoral affairs programming, with at least two hours devoted to substantive election coverage in the six weeks prior to Election Day.

As the elections approach, a well-functioning democracy demands that citizens have access to a diversity of opinions and voices on the choices confronting us. I have a connection through family to a fine photo journalist, Richard Nelson retired CBS. He was a Kennedy favorite. Your stuff compared to his STINKS. How can I vote with any knowledge when what you give me is like snail fodder. Who, what, when and where is what writing a story is about go back to your beginnings and give me the facts. Not someones opinion the facts cut the what to be's. Voting is a right that informed citizens make we need help your help.
HELLPPP

Please. Sincerely,
Susan Robinson

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